


Fentanyl Test Strips


Know what's in your drugs, prevent overdose


Fentanyl test strips can tell you if your drugs contain a deadly opioid called fentanyl or one of its relatives, like carfentanil. Fentanyl is added to drugs like heroin, meth, cocaine, and pills. You should use fentanyl test strips on ALL drugs, not just heroin.


These strips are not perfect – for example, they may miss certain relatives of fentanyl. You could still overdose even if the strip says there is no fentanyl.


How to use fentanyl test strips


 **Step 1. Add sterile water** (1/4 inch, about 5 ml or 10 drops) to your drug residue and mix well.


 If injecting, draw your shot into your syringe leaving some residue in your cooker (e.g., spoon can, lid). Add the water (i.e., rinse water) to the cooker and mix well.

 If snorting, leave some residue on the sides of the bag or surface you snort from if it can hold water. Add the water and mix well.

 If using pills, break a piece off and crush it or crush the whole pill in a container (e.g., bag, can, cup). Add the water and mix well.

 **Step 2. Test.** Hold the strip by the blue end. Dip it into the mixture up to the wavy lines (〰️), but not deeper than the first blue line (—). Hold it there for **15 seconds**.

 **Step 3. Wait.** Remove the strip from the mixture. Lay it on a clean surface. Wait one full minute (**60 seconds**) for it to process.

 **Step 4. Results.** If no line appears, something went wrong. Re-do the test.

 One red line (positive) = Fentanyl

 Two red lines (negative) = **No** fentanyl (“two thumbs up”, “two is better than one”)



How to reduce your overdose risk (from HarmReduction.org)

- **Take it slow and use less.** A little fentanyl goes a long way with fentanyl and overdoses can occur quickly. You can always go up, but you can't go down.
- **Try snorting or smoking instead of injecting.** Injecting carries the highest risk for overdose.
- **Space out doses.** Take time between doses because fentanyl acts fast and is different for everyone.
- **Be extra careful if using alone.** Try to not use alone or have someone check on you so they can help if you overdose. If you are going to use by yourself, call **1-800-484-3731** (NeverUseAlone.com).
- **In a group? Take turns.** Make sure someone is always alert and that someone has naloxone (Narcan).
- **Always carry naloxone (Narcan).** Find where to get it at [KyStopOverdoses.ky.gov](https://www.kystopoverdoses.ky.gov) or ask your local pharmacy.
- **Know the signs of an overdose.** Call 911 if you see someone overdose.
- **Listen to your body.** Health impacts overdose risk. Drink fluids, eat, and rest as much as possible.

By using fentanyl test strips, you accept all responsibility for any injury or death that could occur, whether the drugs have been tested, or not tested, for fentanyl. Fentanyl test strips are drug paraphernalia.

Is it an overdose?

Look for these signs:

- Struggling to breath or not breathing
- Pinpoint pupils
- Blue/gray lips, nails
- Skin pale, clammy
- Extreme sleepiness / inability to awaken verbally or by sternal rub

How to give NARCAN®

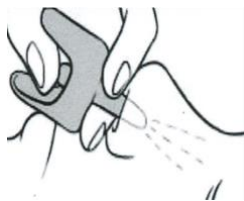


Peel



Place

Caution: do not activate (press) device until inserted into the nostril and you are ready to administer as all of the medication will be lost



Press

NARCAN® Storage

- Store at room temperature between 59°F to 77°F (or for short periods of time between 39°F to 104°F)
- Do not freeze NARCAN®
- Protect from light until ready to use
- Replace NARCAN® before the expiration date on the box

NARCAN® Now

Access NARCAN®, training, and safety information at

<http://www.GetNaloxoneNow.org>

What do I do?

Don't panic! Try to wake the person by yelling their name and rubbing the middle of their chest with knuckles (sternal rub).

1. **Call 911!**
2. **Lay person on their back.** Perform rescue breathing if you have been trained or are instructed by emergency operators.
3. **Peel back the tab** with the circle to open and remove NARCAN® from box
4. Hold NARCAN® with your thumb on bottom of plunger and your first and middle fingers on either side of nozzle
5. Tilt person's head back; provide support under neck with your hand. **Gently insert tip of nozzle into one nostril** until your fingers on either side of nozzle are against the bottom of person's nose
6. **Press plunger firmly** to give dose of NARCAN®
7. Remove sprayer from nostril after giving dose
8. If instructed or trained, continue rescue breathing if slow / no breathing
9. **IF AFTER 2-3** minutes person is still unresponsive with slow/no breathing repeat steps 3-8 above
10. **Roll person on side*** if breathing on own; continue to monitor breathing; begin rescue breathing again if required. **STAY with person until EMS arrives!** It is possible for a person to still experience the effects of an overdose after NARCAN® wears off.

*Putting someone in the recovery position will keep their airway clear and open, and ensures that any vomit or fluid won't cause them to choke.



Knee prevents body from rolling on to stomach.



Kentucky Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.